

Prepositions

Preposition – a word that shows the relationship of one word in a sentence to another word.

The four things that prepositions tell are:

- 1) where something is (location)
- 2) where something is going (direction)
- 3) when something happens (time)
- 4) the relationship between a noun or a pronoun and another word in a sentence.

1) Location

Many prepositions tell where something is in relation to something else.

Amanda's guinea pig is outside its cage.

Other prepositions that show location are: in, on, near, under, and inside.

2) Direction

Other prepositions tell where something is going.

Amanda's guinea pig ran to her cage.

Other prepositions that tell direction are: around, toward, through, past, and beside.

3) Time

A few prepositions help to tell time in a sentence.

I'll wait until noon, and then I'm leaving.

During the carnival, Simon lost his shoe.

4) Other prepositions show the relationship between a noun (or pronoun) and another word.

Sara went to the Hallöween party with Susan.

This exciting book was written by Mark Twain.

Master List of One-word Prepositions

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|------------|
| aboard | below | in | since |
| about | beneath | inside | through |
| above | beside | into | throughout |
| across | besides | like | till |
| after | between | near | to |
| against | beyond | of | toward |
| along | but | off | under |
| alongside | by | on | underneath |
| among | despite | onto | until |
| around | down | out | up |
| as | during | outside | upon |
| at | except | over | with |
| before | for | past | within |
| behind | from | round | without |

Some of the words on this list are not always prepositions. For example, about, since, and until can also be conjunctions. It depends on how the word is used in a particular sentence.

Compound Prepositions

Compound prepositions are two or more words working together like a one-word preposition.

Examples of compound prepositions

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| according to | in back of |
| ahead of | in case of |
| along with | in front of |
| as for | in regard to |
| away from | in spite of |
| because of | instead of |
| by way of | out of |
| due to | up to |
| except for | with the exception of |
| in addition to | |

Every teacher with the exception of Ms. Blackwell is out sick.
Every teacher except Ms. Blackwell is out sick.

Prepositional Phrases

Prepositional phrase – a group of two or more words that begin with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun called the object of the preposition. Every preposition has an object

Sometimes the object of the preposition is the very next word after the preposition:

| Preposition | Object of the Preposition |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| near | me |
| at | school |
| with | Eddie |

Or, it can come a few words later:

| Preposition | Object of the Preposition |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| in spite of | the terrible weather |
| inside | the man's jacket pocket |
| throughout | his long and illustrious career |

A prepositional phrase includes the preposition, the object of the preposition, and all the words in between.

Remember, the object of the preposition has to be a noun or pronoun.